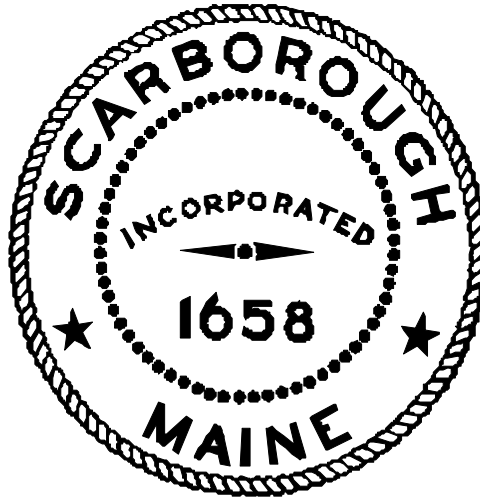


CHAPTER 1002

TOWN OF SCARBOROUGH

SHELLFISH CONSERVATION

ORDINANCE



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Amended 01/06/86
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CHAPTER 1002
TOWN OF SCARBOROUGH
SHELLFISH CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

1. **Authority:** This Ordinance is enacted in accordance with 12 M.S.R.A., Section 6671.

2. **Purpose:** To establish a shellfish conservation program for the Town of Scarborough which will insure the protection and optimum utilization of shellfish resources within its limits. These goals will be achieved by means which may include:

- a. Licensing
- b. Limiting the number of shellfish harvesters
- c. Restricting the time and area where digging is permitted
- d. Limiting the minimum size of clams taken
- e. Limiting the amount of clams taken daily by a harvester

3. **Shellfish Conservation Committee:** The Shellfish Conservation Program for the Town of Scarborough will be administered by the Shellfish Conservation Committee consisting of 7 members to be appointed by the Town Council for terms of 3 years. The Committee's responsibilities include:

- a. Establishing annually in conjunction with the Dept. of Marine Resources, the number of shellfish digging licenses to be issued.
- b. Surveying the clam flats to maintain current information on shellfish resources.
- c. Submitting to the Town Council, proposals for the expenditures of funds for the purpose of shellfish conservation.
- d. Keeping this Ordinance under review and making recommendations for its amendments.
- e. Securing and maintaining records of shellfish harvest from the Town's managed shellfish areas and closed areas that are conditionally opened by the D.M.R.
- f. Approving conservation closures and openings in conjunction with the Area Biologists of the D.M.R. [amended 01/03/01].
- g. Submitting an annual report to the Municipality and the D.M.R. covering the above topics and all other committee activities.

4. **Definitions:**

- a. Resident - The term “resident” refers to a person who has physically resided at a fixed, permanent and principal home in the town for at least six months next prior to the date of application for a license under this Ordinance or, in the case of student, to a student living temporarily outside of Scarborough while enrolled in a college, university or post-secondary school, provided such student maintains his or her fixed permanent principal home in Scarborough. [amended 07/17/02]
- b. Non-resident - The term “non-resident” means anyone not qualified as a resident under this Ordinance.
- c. Shellfish, Clams - When used in the context of this Ordinance, the words “shellfish and clams” mean soft-shell clams MYA ARENARIA.
- d. Municipality - refers to the Town of Scarborough, Maine.

5. Licensing - Municipal Shellfish Digging is required:

It is unlawful for any person to dig or take shellfish from the shores and flats of this municipality without having a current license issued by this municipality as provided by this Ordinance.

A Commercial Digger must also have a valid STATE OF MAINE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISH LICENSE issued by the Department of Marine Resources, if state law makes possession of the state license a prerequisite to issuance of a municipal license.

A. Designation, Scope and Qualifications:

- 1. Resident Commercial Shellfish License:** The license is available to residents of the Town of Scarborough and entitles the holder to dig and take any amount of shellfish from the shores and flats of this municipality and reciprocating municipalities.
- 2. Non-resident Non-reciprocating Commercial Shellfish License:** the license is available to non-residents of this municipality and entitles the holder to dig and take any amount of shellfish from the shores and flats of this municipality.
- 3. Resident Student Commercial License:** The license is available to residents of the Town of Scarborough who are full time students between the minimum age of twelve (12) years old and the maximum age of twenty-two (22) years old on May 1 of the year in which the application is made. Applicants must show proof of age and proof of school attendance, except that students attending college must also show proof of a minimum of twelve (12) college credit hours per semester to be considered full-time students. Applicants under the age of 18 must also have the signature of a parent or guardian on the application for the license to be valid. This license entitles the holder to dig or take any amount of shellfish from the shores and flats of this municipality. [amended 01/03/01] [amended 07/17/02]

4. Non-resident Student Commercial License: The license is available to non-residents of the Town of Scarborough who are full time students between the minimum age of twelve (12) years old and the maximum age of twenty-two (22) years old on May 1 of the year in which the application is made. Applicants must show proof of age and proof of school attendance, except that students attending college must also show proof of a minimum of twelve (12) college credit hours per semester to be considered full-time students. Applicants under the age of 18 must also have the signature of a parent or guardian on the application for the license to be valid. This license entitles the holder to dig or take any amount of shellfish from the shores and flats of this municipality. [amended 01/03/01]
[amended 07/17/02]

5. Over 60 Resident Commercial Bushel License: The license is available to residents of the Town of Scarborough who are 60 years old and over. Applicants must show proof of age and residence. This license entitles the holder to dig or take one (1) bushel of shellfish from the shores and flats of this municipality at each tide. [amended 02/18/98][amended 01/20/99]

6. Residential Recreational Shellfish License: The license is available to residents and real estate taxpayers of this municipality and entitles the holder to dig and take no more than one peck of shellfish in any one day for the use of himself and his family. It is a violation of this ordinance for any person to sell, or otherwise receive remuneration for, any shellfish harvested pursuant to a residential recreational shellfish license. Any holder of a recreational license who is cited by the Shellfish Conservation Officer for selling or otherwise receiving remuneration for any shellfish harvested pursuant to that license, in addition to being subject to the other penalties provided in this ordinance, shall be ineligible for a recreational license in the next licensing year following that violation. The Shellfish Conservation Officer's determination of violation may be appealed in the same manner as a license suspension under Section 5(H)(3).

6-a. Non-resident Recreational Shellfish License: The license is available to non-residents of the Town of Scarborough and entitles the holder to dig and take no more than one peck of shellfish in any one day for the use of himself and his family. It is a violation of this ordinance for any person to sell, or otherwise receive remuneration for, any shellfish harvested pursuant to a non-resident recreational shellfish license. Any holder of a non-resident recreational shellfish license who is cited by the Shellfish Conservation Officer for selling or otherwise receiving remuneration for any shellfish harvested pursuant to that license, in addition to being subject to the other penalties provided in this ordinance, shall be ineligible for a recreational license in the next licensing year following that violation. The Shellfish Conservation Officer's determination of violation may be appealed in the same manner as a license suspension under Section 5(H).
[03/19/03]

7. Resident Recreational Day Licenses. This license entitles residents and real estate taxpayers of the Town of Scarborough to dig or take up to one peck of shellfish from the shores and flats of this municipality during a single calendar day specified in the license. The duration of this license is one calendar day only. [02/18/98]

8. Non-resident Recreational Day Licenses. This license entitles non-residents of the Town of Scarborough to dig or take up to one peck of shellfish from the shores and flats of this municipality during a single calendar day specified in the license. The duration of this license is one calendar day only. [02/18/98]

9. License must be signed. The licensee must sign the license to make it valid.

10. Commercial license applicant may only apply for one type. A commercial license applicant may only apply for one type of commercial license under this Ordinance.

B. Contents of Application: Any person may apply to the Town Clerk for the license required by this ordinance on forms provided by the municipality.

1. Contents of the Application: The application must be in the form of an affidavit and must contain the applicant's name, current address, birth date, height, weight, signature and whatever other information the Town Clerk may require.

2. False Statements. Any person who provides information in support of an application under this ordinance must do so in the form of an affidavit. If the applicant provides false information, the applicant forfeits the right to a license and a license previously issued to that applicant shall become void. Any other person who gives false information in support of an application under this ordinance commits a violation of this ordinance punishable under section 5(K). [02/18/98].

C. Fees: The fees for the licenses are as specified in the *Schedule of License, Permit and Application Fees* established by the Town Council, and must accompany in full the application for the respective license. Fees for non-resident licenses shall not exceed twice the amount charged for the equivalent resident licenses. The Town Clerk shall pay all fees received to the Town Treasurer. Fees received for shellfish licenses shall be used by the Town for shellfish management, conservation and enforcement. Fees are non-refundable, except that the holder of a student commercial license who surrenders the license within seventy-five (75) after the date of issuance shall receive a refund of one-half the license fee. [01/05/00]

D. Limitation of Diggers: Clam resources vary in density and size distribution from year to year and over the limited soft clam producing area of the Town. It is essential that the town carefully husband its shellfish resources. Following the annual review of the town's clam resources, its size distribution, abundance and the warden's reports, as required by Section 3, the Shellfish Conservation Committee, in consultation with the D.M.R. area biologist, will determine whether limiting commercial or recreational shellfish licenses is an appropriate shellfish management option for the following year.

The Shellfish Conservation Committee will approve all accepted conservation projects by a majority vote. The names and number of hours completed on an accepted conservation project will be recorded in writing by the Shellfish Conservation Officer and submitted to the Shellfish Committee on a monthly basis for their records.

It shall be the sole responsibility of the Commercial License holder to contact the Shellfish Committee Members or the Shellfish Officer to determine the conservation work available to participate in. The Shellfish Committee Chair, with consent of the majority membership of the Committee, may designate special conservation work during any period of State closure of the Town of Scarborough shellfish beds. The Chair may poll the Committee by telephone, email, fax or in person for the purposes of this section. Each Commercial License holder is required to contribute half their required conservation hours in the form of low tide work. The conservation year will run from May 1 to October 31, except for delegates to the Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Council and volunteers in the school systems. School conservation projects have a deadline of December 31 and are limited to a maximum of three (3) hours per project and six (6) hours total allowed. The conservation year for delegates to the Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Council shall run from May 1 to December 31. [amended 01/03/01] [amended 07/17/02] [amended 03/17/04]

The Shellfish Conservation Committee may waive all or part of the requirement for conservation time for an applicant who provides the Committee with a written statement from a physician indicating that the applicant was not able to participate in any regularly scheduled conservation time due to incapacitation by illness or injury. The Committee may also allow the following alternative conservation work, on an hour-for-hour basis, upon the request of an applicant made at a regular monthly meeting of the Committee:

- i. Another time to complete conservation time for an applicant who demonstrates to the Committee that the illness or incapacitation of a parent, spouse or child prevented that person from participating in regularly scheduled conservation time, or
- ii. Alternate, less strenuous work for an applicant who provides the Committee with a writing statement from a physician indicating that the applicant is no physically able to participate in regular conservation work. [01/05/00]

- 1) Prior to February 1 of 1998 and each succeeding year, the committee shall report its findings and document recommendations for the allocation of commercial and recreational licenses to be made available for the following license-year to the Commissioner of Marine Resources for concurrence.
- 2) After receiving approval of proposed license allocations from the Commissioner of Marine Resources and prior to February 1 of 1998 and each succeeding year, the Shellfish Conservation Committee shall notify the Town Clerk in writing of the number and allocation of shellfish licenses to be issued.
- 3) Notice of the number of licenses and the procedure for application shall be published in a trade or industry publication, or in a newspaper or combination of newspapers with general circulation, which the municipal officers consider effective in reaching persons affected, not less than 10 days prior to the period of issuance and shall be posted in the municipal offices until the period concludes.
- 4) The Town Clerk shall accept applications for shellfish licenses annually commencing on the first Monday in April, or on the first town office business day thereafter if the first Monday is not a business day. [03/19/03]

(a) Commercial Renewal Licenses.

(i): On that first day and on the next subsequent business day, the Clerk shall issue license only to holders of resident and non-resident commercial shellfish licenses who seek renewal and who have completed 12 hours of conservation time approved under this Ordinance during the term of their current licenses or 4 hours if the holder is 70 years of age or older. Such applicants may apply by mail pursuant to subparagraph (ii) below or must appear in person at the office of the Town Clerk during that two day period and pay the application fee at the time of issuance of the license. The Clerk shall issue commercial licenses to such qualified applicants on a first come, first served basis during those two business days. Any holder of a commercial license whose status as a resident or non-resident has changed at the time of application shall not be entitled to apply for renewal under this subsection (a) but may apply for a new license under subparagraph (b) below. [03/16/2005]

(ii): Effective March 1, 1998 in lieu of applying in person pursuant to subparagraph (I) above, an applicant for a renewal resident or non-resident commercial license may apply by mail. Applications by mail must be received at the Town Clerk's office on a day that office is open for business no earlier than March 1 and no later than March 31. The application must be accompanied by the required license fee, a copy of the applicant's driver's license, a copy of the applicant's motor vehicle

registration certificate, and any other information upon which the applicant relies to document residency. The Clerk shall mark all applications with the date and time of receipt. If more than one application is received at the same time, the Clerk shall determine their order or receipt of random drawing and mark them accordingly. The Clerk's marks concerning order of receipt shall be conclusive for purposes of applying the first-come first-served provisions of paragraph (i) above.

(b) Non-Renewal Resident Commercial and Non-Resident Non-Reciprocating Commercial Licenses.

(i) On the third and fourth subsequent business days, the Clerk shall accept applications for any remaining resident commercial shellfish licenses and non-resident non-reciprocating commercial shellfish licenses. Applicants must apply in person at the office of the Town Clerk. The Clerk shall not issue any licenses during the third and fourth business days, but shall inform each applicant that licenses will be awarded on the basis of a lottery and advise each applicant of the time and place where the lottery will be held. On the fifth subsequent business day, the Clerk shall conduct a lottery for the issuance of the remaining resident commercial shellfish licenses and a lottery for the issuance of non-resident non-reciprocating commercial shellfish licenses. In order to be entered into the lottery, an applicant must be present and must tender the application fee at the time of the lottery drawing. The Clerk shall award the remaining resident commercial shellfish licenses by drawing the names of qualified applicants at random and then shall award the non-resident non-reciprocating commercial shellfish licenses by drawing the names of qualified applicants at random

(ii) If, after June 1 annually, any allocated licenses remain unissued, on the first consecutive Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in June applications shall be taken and placed in a lottery pool. On the following Friday, applicants' names shall be drawn at random by the Town Clerk. Physical presence and full payment are required at the time of drawing, and all applicants must meet eligibility requirements for the license category that they apply for. The lottery shall be conducted in the same fashion as the lottery under section 5(D)(4)(b)(i).

(c) Resident Student Commercial Licenses, Non-Resident Student Commercial Licenses and Over 60 Resident Commercial Bushel Licenses shall be renewable in the same manner as Resident and Non-Resident Commercial Licenses under Section 5.D.4(a), except that required conservation times shall be:

Resident & Non-Resident Student Commercial Licenses	4 hours
Over 60 Resident	Eight (8) Hours if the license holder is below

Commercial Bushel Licenses	70 years of age on May 1 of the year in which the renewal application is made. [03/16/2005]
	Four (4) hours if the license holder is 70 years of age or older on May 1 in the year in which the application is made. [03/16/2005]

Applications for new (non-renewal) Resident Student Commercial Licenses, Non-Resident Student Commercial Licenses and Over 60 Resident Commercial Bushel License shall be processed in the same manner as applications for non-renewal Resident Commercial and Non-Resident Non-Reciprocating Commercial Licenses under Section 5.D.4(b), except that for Resident Student Commercial Licenses and Non-Resident Student Commercial Licenses the clerk shall continue drawing names after all licenses have been awarded and until all applicants have been placed on a list in the order their names have been drawn. Any Student Commercial License which is surrendered after issuance shall be made available to the remaining applicants on that list in the order their names were drawn, and then to other applicants on a first-come, first-served basis.

(d) Resident Recreational Licenses.

Commencing on the second Monday in April annually the Town Clerk shall accept applications for resident recreational shellfish licenses. Applicants must appear in person at the office of the Town Clerk. Licenses shall be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

(e) Non-resident Recreational Licenses.

On the second Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday until noon, in April annually, the Town Clerk shall accept applications for non-resident recreational licenses. Applicants must apply in person at the office of the Town Clerk and shall have their names placed in a lottery pool. On that Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., the licenses shall be awarded to applicants drawn at random from the pool by the Clerk and shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the number of allocated resident recreational shellfish licenses. Physical presence and full payment are required at the time of drawing. The lottery shall be conducted in the same fashion as the lottery under section 5(D)(4)(b)(i).

(f) Remaining Licenses.

If, after August 1 annually, any allocated licenses remain unissued, the clerk shall issue such licenses on a first-come, first served basis, without regard to the residency of the applicant or the allocation between resident and non-resident licenses. [03/16/2005]

(g) Day Licenses.

After all available resident and non-resident recreational licenses have been issued under Section 5(D)(4)(d) and 5(D)(4)(e) above, the clerk may receive applications for and issue resident recreational day licenses and non-resident recreational day licenses, on a first-come, first-served basis without regard to residency of the applicant. Applicants must appear in person at the office of the Town Clerk no earlier than 5 calendar days before the day for which the license is requested. An applicant may obtain only one day license at a time and must appear in person on a separate day for each license requested. Each license issued under this section shall specify the calendar day for which it is issued and shall be valid for that day only. [03/16/2005]

E. License expiration date: Each license issued under authority of this Ordinance expires at midnight the 30th of April next following the date of issue.

F. Reciprocal Harvesting Privilege: Licensees from any other municipality co-operating with this municipality on a joint shellfish management program may harvest shellfish according to the terms of their management program, may harvest shellfish according to the terms of their licenses.

G. Children 16 years or younger may accompany a recreational license holder: The recreational license holder and accompanying children are entitled to dig no more than the previously stated amount, "one peck of shellfish in any one day for the use of himself and his family." [amended 07/17/02]

H. Suspension: [amended 04/18/01]

1. Any shellfish licensee having one conviction for a violation of this Ordinance or for a violation occurring within the Town of Scarborough of any state statute regulating the digging or taking of shellfish shall have his shellfish license automatically suspended for a period of 30 days. Subsequent convictions during the same license year (May 1 - April 30) shall result in an automatic suspension of sixty (60) days. A licensee shall have his record cleared if there are no convictions within one year from the time of a conviction. As used in this paragraph, the term "digging" means using a shovel, spade, rake, tool or hands to uncover shellfish from the ground and the term "taking" means removing a marine organism from its natural habitat. [amended 04/18/01]

2. Any shellfish licensee having one conviction for a violation occurring within the Town of Scarborough of 12 M.R.S.A. § 6625 (governing identification and tagging of shellfish) shall have his shellfish license automatically suspended for a period of seven (7) days. Subsequent convictions during the same license year (May 1 - April 30) shall result in an automatic suspension of fourteen (14) days. A licensee shall have his record cleared if there are no convictions within one year from the time of a conviction. [amended 04/18/01]

3. A licensee whose shellfish license has been suspended pursuant to this section shall automatically have his license reinstated after the period of suspension has been served. [amended 04/18/01]

4. The suspension shall be effective from the third business day after the date of mailing of a Notice of Suspension by the Town Clerk to the Licensee or upon presentation of a Notice of Suspension by the Town Marine Resource Officer, whichever is earlier. [amended 02/18/98].

5. Any licensee whose shellfish license has automatically been suspended pursuant to this section shall be entitled to a hearing before the Shellfish Conservation Committee upon filing of a written Request for Hearing with the Town Clerk within 30 days following the effective date of suspension. Filing of the request for hearing with the Town Clerk stays the suspension until the end of the seventh day following the decision of the Shellfish Conservation Committee. The licensee may appeal the decision of the Shellfish Committee before the Town Council by filing a written Request for Appeal with the Town Clerk within 7 days of the decision of the Shellfish Conservation Committee. Filing of the Request for Appeal with the Town Clerk stays the suspension until the Town Council has rendered its decision. [amended 04/18/01]

I. Opening and Closing of Flats: The Shellfish Conservation Committee, with the approval of the Commissioner of Marine Resources, may open and close the areas for shellfish harvest (the "Conservation Areas"). Except in the case of emergencies, the Shellfish Conservation Committee shall follow the following procedure prior to opening or closing a Conservation Area:

1. Upon determination by the Shellfish Conservation Committee or by the Chair of the Committee that the opening or closing of a Conservation Area should be considered, the Chair shall place the proposed opening or closing on an agenda for a public hearing.

2. No less than 7 days prior to the hearing, a notice of the hearing describing the location of the Conservation Area proposed to be opened or closed shall be: (a) posted at the Town Office; (b) published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Scarborough; and, (c) communicated to the Department of Marine Resources. The notice may also be placed on the Scarborough Shellfish Conservation Officer's telephone recording.

3. At the public hearing, the Shellfish Conservation Committee shall present and entertain evidence obtained from shellfish surveys and other sources. Members of the public may then comment on such evidence and may present additional evidence relevant to the proposed opening or closing.

4. At the conclusion of the evidence, the Shellfish Conservation Committee shall make findings of fact based on the evidence presented, shall reach conclusions based on those findings of fact, shall order whether the Conservation Area in question shall be opened or closed, and may set such time limitations and other harvesting conditions as are consistent with good conservation practices.

5. The order of the Shellfish Conservation Committee shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Marine Resources and shall not take effect until approved by the Department of Marine Resources.

In the event the Shellfish Conservation Committee determines that an emergency closing of a Conservation Area is necessary, the Committee may take action without following the procedures described above, provided that the Committee makes a reasonable effort to give adequate public notice and allow for public participation. [amended 01/03/01]

J. Hours Prohibited: It shall be unlawful to dig or possess any shellfish in a town conservation area between the hours of ½ hour after sundown and ½ hour before sunrise (no night digging).

K. Penalty: Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance commits a crime, not a civil violation, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,500 per offense, as provided in 12 M.R.S.A. §6671(10).

L. Administrative Suspension of Recreational License: If the Shellfish Conservation Officer determines that the holder of a recreational license has sold or otherwise received remuneration for shellfish harvested pursuant to the recreational license, or that the holder of a license has violated Section 5(N) of this ordinance the Shellfish Conservation Officer may impose an administrative suspension of the License and of eligibility for a license in the next licensing year. The Shellfish Conservation Officer shall give written notice to the license holder of the administrative suspension, which shall be effective from the third business day after mailing of the Notice of Suspension or upon presentation of the Notice of Suspension by the Shellfish Conservation Officer, whichever is earlier. The license holder may appeal the administrative suspension in the same manner as an automatic suspension under section 5.H.(3). The Shellfish Conservation Officer may, in his discretion, employ the administrative suspension in addition to or as an alternative to the penalties provided in section 5.K. The administrative suspension process and determinations resulting from that process are separate from and shall not be affected by the pendency or outcome of any court proceeding for the imposition of penalties under section 5.K. [amended 02/18/98]

M. Clam Size and Tolerance of Harvest:

1) Clam size and tolerance of harvest. A person shall not harvest or possess softshell clams which are less than two (2) inches in the longest diameter to the amount of more than ten (10) percent of any lot.

2) The method of determining tolerance. The tolerance of ten (10) percent must be determined by a numerical count of not less than one (1) nor more than four (4) pecks taken at random from various parts of the lot. If the lot contains less than one (1) peck, the tolerance must be determined by numerical count of the entire lot.

N. Unlawful Sale of Shellfish. It is a violation of this Ordinance for any holder of a license under this Ordinance to sell or otherwise receive remuneration for any shellfish dug or taken within the Town of Scarborough by any person who does not hold a valid shellfish license issued by the Commissioner of Marine Resources pursuant to 12 M.R.S.A. § 6601. [02/18/98]